Export Of Jute

477. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to export 1.5 lakh bales of raw jute in 1992-93;

(b) if so, whether the total domestic requirement of raw jute has been met alongwith the anticipated requirement for the rest of the year;

(c) whether Government propose to open new avenues, give incentives and do more research for encouraging the manufacturing of diversified products of jute so as to boost the export of finished products instead of raw jute; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) Government have, in view of the availability of surplus raw jute after fully catering to domestic requirements, announced a quota for the export of 1.50 lakh bales of raw jute to General Currency Area countries during the 1992-93 jute season.

(c) and (d) Government have taken several measures to promote the manufacture and export of diversified jute products including, inter alia, provision of financial, fiscal and marketing support and funding R&D activities to develop a new range of diversified jute products suited to consumer preferences. Multidimensional activities have been undertaken for promotion of export of jute manufactures including diversified jute products such as participation in international fairs, organising buyers'-sellers' meets, commissioning market studies, liaisoning with importers and end-users and conducting publicity campaigns.

Silk Production

478. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have started sericulture in Kerala and Andhra Pradesh on commercial basis;

(b) if so, the results thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to start sericulture in other States which are non-viable so far for increasing the silk production and also to boost the employment opportunities; if so, the details thereof;

(d) the average annual production of silk in the country, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken proposed to be taken to increase silk production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) Government does not directly undertake sericulture in any State, however, it gives research and technical inputs and infrastructural support to sericulture farmers in both Andhra Pradesh and Kerala.

(c) Central Silk Board has initiated action to introduce sericulture on pilot-project basis in one or two selected districts of 12 non-traditional States. In these States, basic sericulture infrastructure like basic Seed Farms, Grainages, Chawkie Rearing Centres, Demonstration-cum-Training Centres etc., are proposed to be set up.

(d) The requisite information is attached as Statement. (*See* below)

(e) Some of the major steps undertaken to increase silk production are as follows:

(i) bringing in additional acreage under mulberry.

(ii) improving silkworm seed quality;